a nonprofit corporation

5 East Holly Street • Pasadena, CA 91103 • Telephone 626.795.4331 • Facsimile 626.577.4235

November 3, 2005

Marlene Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket 05-261 Ex Parte Presentation In Support of Fones4All Petition for Expedited Forbearance

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing on behalf of the Pasadena Senior Center (PSC). PSC is an independent, nonprofit agency that welcomes all members of the diverse, growing senior population and their families; it serves both those in need of basic services and those ready to use their accumulated wisdom for the good of the community. PSC is dedicated to helping seniors live meaningful lives of dignity, enjoyment and useful purpose. The Center improves and enriches the lives of seniors with opportunities to be independent, celebrate life and reach their fullest potential.

In conjunction with Fones4All, one of the services that we advise our members and visitors of is the availability of subsidized telephone service through both the California Universal Lifeline Service (ULTS) program, as well as the support available though the Federal Lifeline and Linkup programs. Indeed, PSC, in conjunction with Fones4All has implemented innovative multi-faceted grass roots efforts recommended by the FCC<sup>1</sup> - including door to door canvassing, targeted mailings, and on-site displays — to identify and serve households that did not previously have telephone service.

PSC agrees with Commissioner Abernathy's statement in the *TracFone Order* that "it is essential that [the Commission] take all possible steps to ensure that low income consumers are not barred from using available support on the basis of the specific technologies they wish to use or the specific business plans pursued by their service providers." However, without service providers like Fones4All, and other competitors who are currently using the combination of unbundled network elements known as "UNE-P" many of those clients of PSC who are eligible for participation in the ULTS and/or the Lifeline program will in fact be barred and foreclosed from choosing to use the high quality services of Fones4All or any other similarly situated competitor purely because of the technology and business plan of the carrier. As a result, PSC, and in fact all other ULTS and Lifeline eligible consumers will be foreclosed from having a choice of telecommunications carriers, and the negligible amount of competition for these customers will evaporate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WC Docket 03-109, FCC 04-87 at ¶¶(2004)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See the Matter of Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service and Petition of TracFone Wireless, Inc. for Forbearance From 47 U.S.C. §214 (e)(1)(A) and 47 C.F.R. §54.201(i), Order, CC Docket 96-45, FCC 05-165 (Sept. 8, 2005)

Accordingly, PSC urges the Commission to grant Fones4All's petition, and in so doing help ensure that low income seniors are afforded the competitive choices available to all other Americans.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Green

**Executive Director** 

Cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin

Commissioner Abernathy Commissioner Adelstein Commissioner Copps Michelle Carey Russ Hanser Scott Bergmann Jessica Rosenworcel